Higher Education Advisory Committee Proposal of Five "Big Ideas"

Presentation to the Washington Learns Steering Committee

July 10th, 2006

Proposed Five "Big Ideas"

I. Raise Overall Educational Attainment

II. Provide Fair, Sufficient and Stable Funding

III. Improve Articulation and Transitions for Students

IV. Improve Efficiency, Accountability and Governance

V. Increase and Sustain research capacity in Washington

Washington's Global Challenge States (GCS)

The Comparison State Group – *Washington's Global Challenge States* [GCS] -- is composed of the top states on the Progressive Policy Institute's 2002 New Economy Index.

The NEI ranks states on the basis of indicators of their potential to perform in the new economy. These are arranged in five clusters:

- ✓ Knowledge jobs
- ✓ Globalization
- ✓ Economic Dynamism and Competition
- ✓ Transformation to a Digital Economy
- ✓ Technological Innovation Capacity

Global Challenge States

The Global Challenge States are:

- **Massachusetts**
- **Washington**
- **California**
- **Colorado**
- **Maryland**
- **New Jersey**
- **Connecticut**
- **Virginia**
- **Minnesota**
- **North Carolina**

Raise Overall Educational Attainment: Background & Statement of Need Among the GCS, Washington

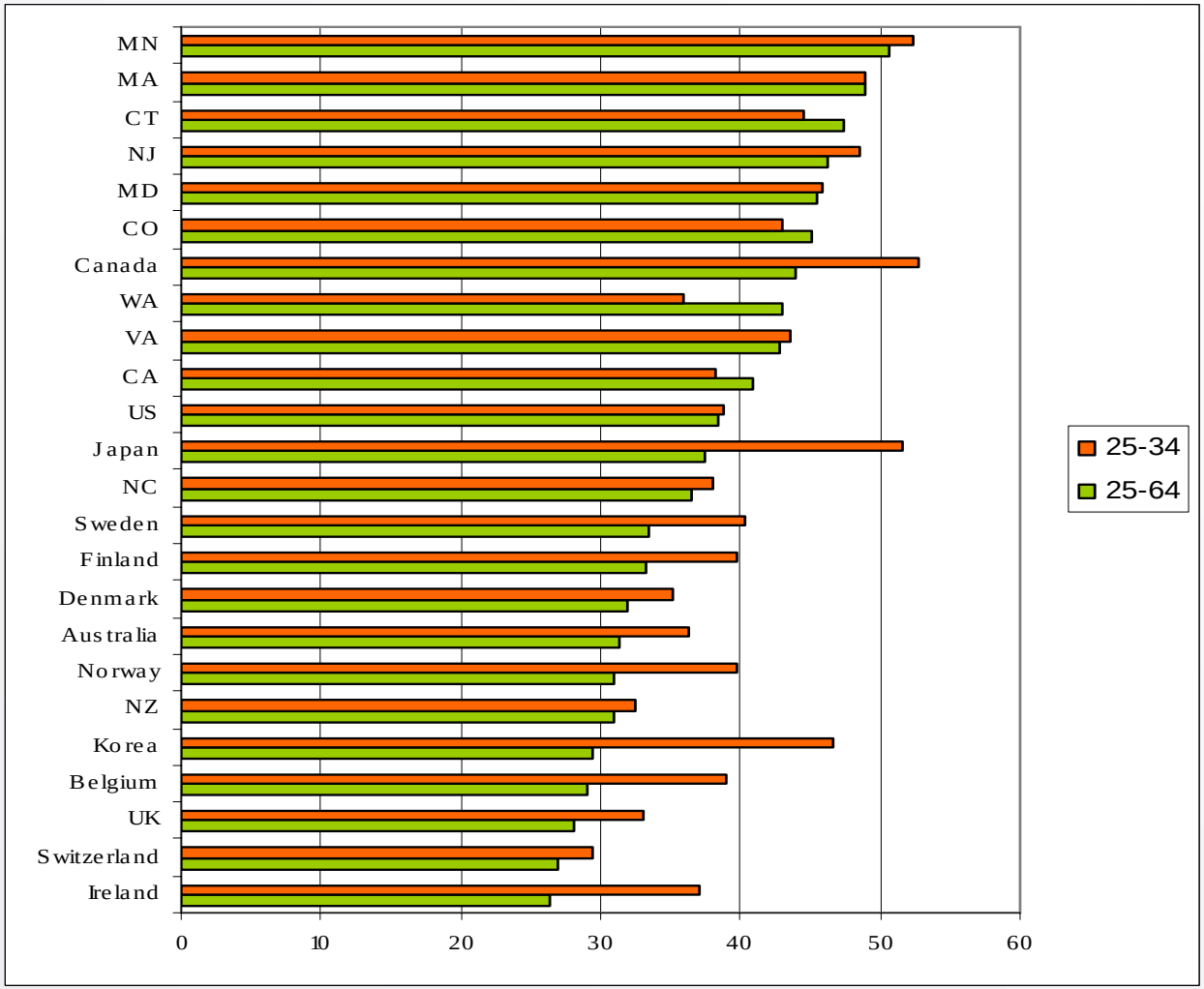
- ✓ Ranks last in the percent of ninth graders who enter college.
- ✓ Ranks last for those still enrolled in their sophomore year.
- ✓ Ranks last in the percent that graduate from college in 6 years.
- ✓ Ties for next to last place in the percent of ninth graders who finish high school.

1. Raise Overall Educational Attainment: Background & Statement of Need

- ✓ When compared to OECD nations, the United States does well in higher educational attainment.
- ✓ However, in a comparison of the cohort of 25 to 34 year olds—**slippage in the U.S. and in Washington is significant, as demonstrated by the rankings on the next two charts.**
- ✓ Nearly all industrialized democracies of the world are becoming better educated and are positioning to surpass the U.S.

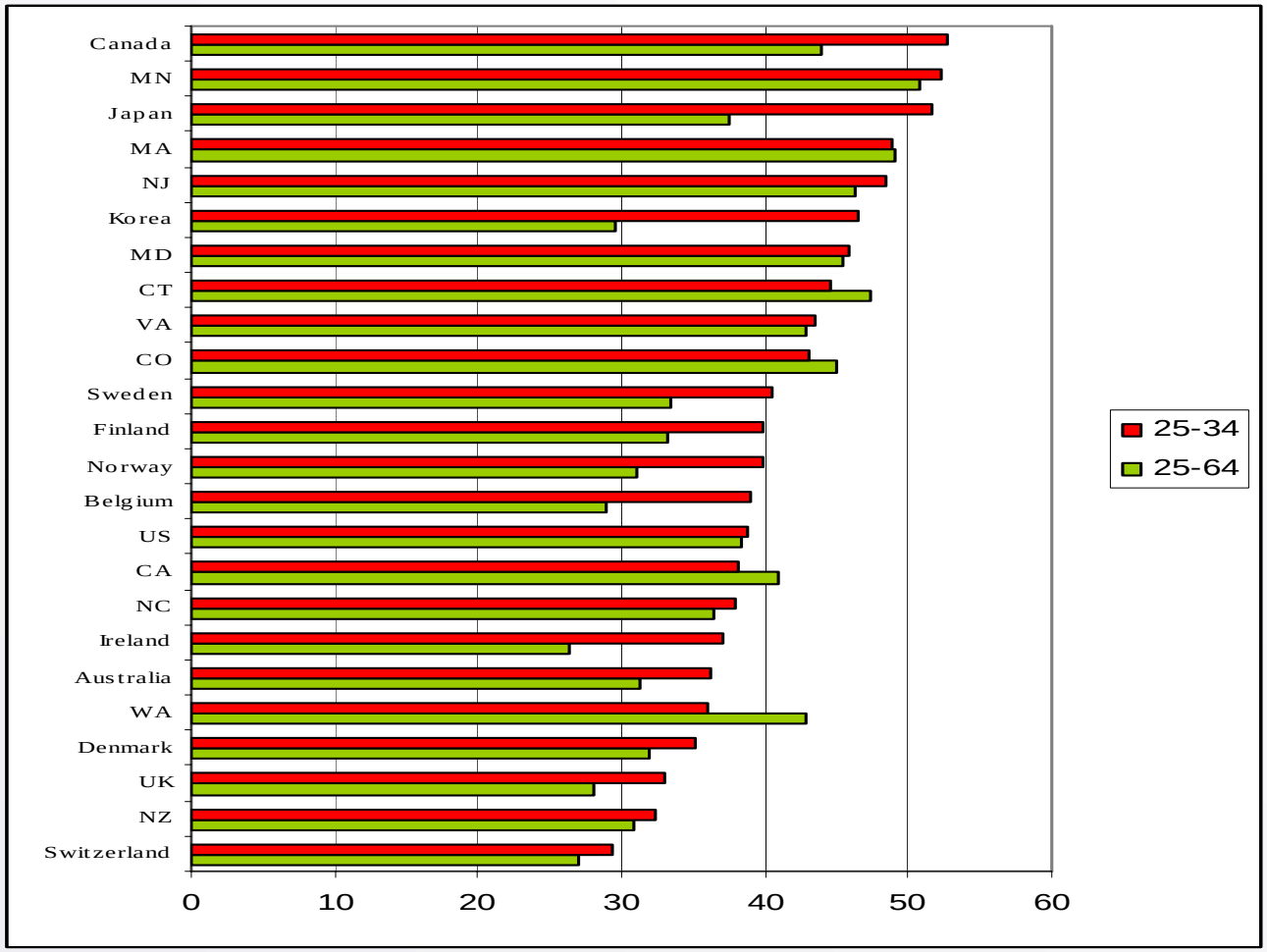
1. Raise Overall Educational Attainment:

Percent Adults With A College Credential 2003: Ranked by 25-64 YEAR-OLDS

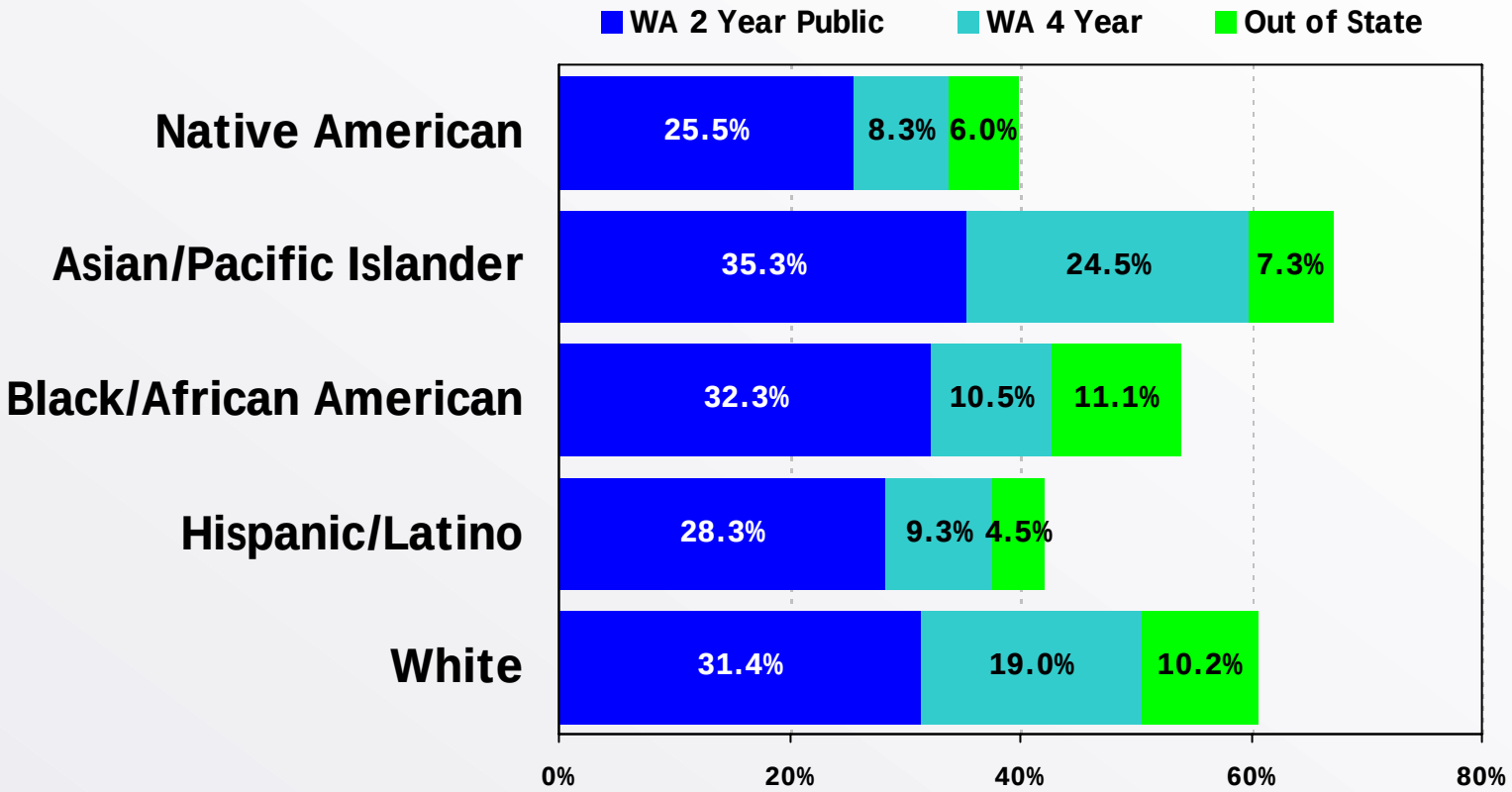


1. Raise Overall Educational Attainment:

Percent Adults With A College Credential 2003: Ranked by 25-35 YEAR-OLDS



Higher Education Participation Rates by Race and Ethnicity



*Completers include on-time and delayed recipients of regular high school diplomas as well as IEP graduates, Adult Diploma recipients and GED recipients

Source: OSPI/WSU Social and Economic Sciences Research Center. *Washington State College Enrollment Study, Class of 2003: College Enrollment in the First Year after Graduation*. [www.sesrc.wsu.edu/nsc/]

Description and Possible Strategies

1. **Increase baccalaureate and graduate and professional degree production** to the average of the GCS.

2. **Maintain current high ranking in Community and Technical Colleges (C/TCs).**

3. **Develop a phased implementation plan**, with priority to high demand fields at both the baccalaureate and sub-baccalaureate levels.

4. Increase participation and completion rates among **traditionally underserved students.**

Description and Possible Strategies

Among the strategies to consider:

1. **Opportunity Scholarships**: provide every high school graduate with "free tuition" for one year of college (at the CC/TC average tuition rate).

2. **Opportunity Grants**: At least double the funding for the Opportunity Grant Pilot Program created by E2SHB 2630.

3. **Expanded I-BEST program** (adult basic education and workforce training) at the Community and Technical Colleges.

Description and Possible Strategies

4. Extended **state need grant** program for part-time students.

5. **Washington 21st Century Scholars**: provide qualified low-income (those in free and reduced price lunch program) middle school students a free four-year education at a public institution if they maintain a "C" average and eligibility requirements.

6. Provide enriched funding to the institutions for **high demand degree programs**.

Description and Possible Strategies

7. Provide conditional tuition scholarships for students pursuing selected **high demand** degrees.

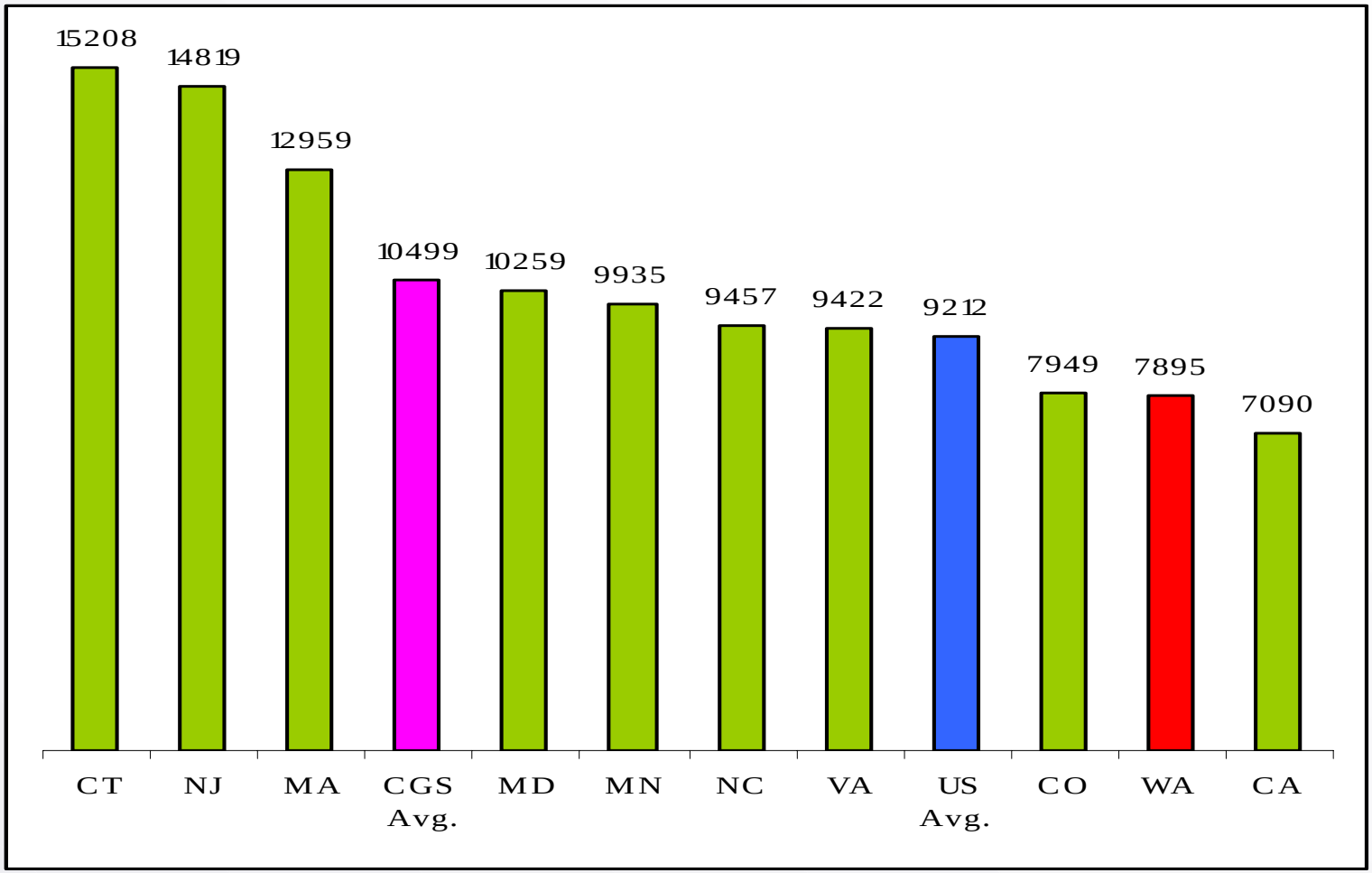
8. Utilize programs of independent colleges and universities through an RFP process.

9. Fully utilize branch campuses, university centers and other educational delivery systems.

II. Provide Fair, Sufficient and Stable Funding: Background & Statement of Need

- ✓ Washington ranks ninth among the 10 GS States and below the national average in state appropriations per FTE.
- ✓ Over the past decade tuition has increased by approximately 80%, and caused a **cost-shift from the taxpayers to the student and family**.
- ✓ Despite these tuition increases, Washington is characterized as a **moderate tuition/moderate financial aid state.**
- ✓ In comparison to the GCS average, Washington's research university tuition rate ranks 3rd from the bottom, its comprehensive rate ranks 4th from the bottom and the community and technical college rate is about average.

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION PER FTE, GC STATES AND US AVERAGE, 2005 SOURCE: SHEEO, NCHEMS



Description and Possible Strategies

1. **Establish the top tier GCS as a financial "metric" for state funding support per student**.

2. **Develop per student funding based on a formula** that addresses faculty compensation, faculty-student ratio by level and the depth of library and instructional support.

3. Raise **tuition rates in the four-year sector** to achieve parity with GCS. Tuition rates at CTCs should not be raised at this time.

Description and Possible Strategies

4. D**ifferential pricing** should be used to take advantage of available capacity.

5. Institutions that raise tuition more than inflation should commit to holding harmless students below the state median income-level.

6. Performance funding could also be employed as part of the overall funding scheme.

7. The **State Need Grant program** should be increased to keep pace with tuition and be available to more part-time students.

III. Improve Articulation and Transition for Students: Background & Statement of Need

- ✓ Washington has **student pipeline issues** that require dramatic new approaches to tuition and student financial aid policy.
- ✓ The **state ranks in the bottom of the GCS** in its ability to get students from ninth grade through college.
- ✓ Multiple approaches are needed to help students successfully advance from one sector to the next.

III. Improve Articulation and Transitions for Students.

The Student Pipeline: movement of 9th graders through Global Challenge States

State	For every 100 Ninth Graders	Graduate from High School	Enter College	Are Still Enrolled Their Sophomore Year	Graduate within 150% Time
Massachusetts	100	75	52	41	28
Connecticut	100	77	48	37	26
Minnesota	100	84	53	38	25
New Jersey	100	86	55	40	24
Virginia	100	74	39	30	20
Colorado	100	71	37	26	18
North Carolina	100	59	38	28	18
Maryland	100	73	40	30	18
California	100	69	33	22	17
Washington	100	71	32	22	16

III. Improve Articulation and Transitions for Students

1. Implement a **K-12 and Post-Secondary** guidance and advising system.
2. Develop a **one-stop Electronic Advising Platform.**
3. Support more **rigorous minimum admission standards**.
4. Maintain Core course data base related to minimum admission standards.
5. **Create college readiness standards** based on competencies.

III. Improve Articulation and Transitions for Students

6. Maintain a wide variety of **dual-credit programs**.

7. Expand applied BA degree opportunities at the CTCs that are articulated with applied associate degrees.

8. Develop specific strategies to achieve improved completion and participation rates among traditionally underrepresented students.

IV. Improve Efficiency, Accountability and Governance: Background & Statement of Need

- ✓ Washington has a mixed, but essentially decentralized system for funding higher education.
- ✓ Long range planning is mandated as a HECB responsibility and pursued by it and other agencies, SBCTC and WTECB and the institutions. However, this is characterized by an absence of system-wide buy-in.
- ✓ Sustained commitment to higher education investment is difficult.

IV. Improve Efficiency, Accountability and Governance

Create improvements to provide governance and accountability that facilitate performance, seamlessness, and efficiency across the P-20 system.

IV. Improve Efficiency, Accountability and Governance

Among the strategies to be included are:

1. **Public Higher Education Agenda** that represents a long-term program and contains explicit links with education at all levels.

2. **Develop performance and accountability agreements** for measurable objectives.

3. Establish a **comprehensive student data system**.

IV. Improve Efficiency, Accountability and Governance

4. **Reconstitute the HECB** by adding representatives of the coordinated sectors and place program administration responsibilities in a separate higher education services office.

5. **Improve long-term enrollment planning** through interagency collaboration.

6. Establish a **P-20 council.**

7. Utilize **P-20 budget Overlay.**

V. Increase and Sustain Research Capacity in the higher education system

- ✓ Washington state's total R & D funds from federal, industrial and institutional sources hover around the national average.
- ✓ Washington trails almost every state on R & D expenditures from state and local funds.
- ✓ When it comes to R & D, with the exception of University of Washington, Washington may not be playing in the league it likes to think it is.

V. Increase and Sustain Research Capacity in the higher education system

R & D Expenditures from State and Local Funds 2002

State	Per Capita	Nat'l Rank
California	$6.92	26
Colorado	$4.89	39
Connecticut	$4.30	42
Maryland	$11.05	14
Massachusetts	$5.94	35
Minnesota	$11.65	12
New Jersey	$6.12	34
North Carolina	$14.40	6
Virginia	$9.63	18
Washington	$2.87	47
GCS Avg.	$7.77	
U.S. Avg.	$7.95	

V. Increase and Sustain Research Capacity in the higher education system

1. **Preserve and enhance federally funded research.**

2. **Provide state matching dollars** to secure federal grants and contracts and state funding for research.

3. Provide **support for graduate programs** and **incentives for technology transfer** and commercialization of basic and applied research.